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2 July 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Vietnam: Evidence is now available that a substantial number of political agents have been infiltrated into South Vietnam from North Vietnam since last fall.

Viet Cong prisoners captured by the South Vietnamese Army have provided information on the entry of at least three groups. One group of 120 trained political agents entered the northern provinces of South Vietnam via Laos during October-November 1962. Another group of 30 trained men infiltrated between November 1962 and January 1963, and was assigned to a Viet Cong provincial committee. A group of seven, from a training class of 300, infiltrated another province in late 1962 or early 1963. No information is available on the assignment of the remainder of this class.

There is still no confirmation that military units have infiltrated since last September. However, there are frequent unsubstantiated reports of the infiltration of groups ranging from small units up to two regiments in size.

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(In recent weeks, President Diem has expressed increasing concern over Communist activity in southern Laos, which he fears may portend greater North Vietnamese support for the Viet Cong.)

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British Guiana - Cuba: The Jagan government has been broadening its links with Cuba while stepping up attacks on the US.

The government-controlled Rice Marketing Board recently contracted to sell Havana 45,000 tons of rice in 1964, three times the amount being supplied this year. British Guiana has also committed itself to providing the Cubans some 50,000 railroad ties.

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Government spokesmen and Jagan's newspaper, meanwhile, have been charging that the US is trying to undermine the regime. Specifically, they are saying that the US intervened officially to prevent the government from using American-owned facilities to store fuel obtained from Cuba. Jagan's paper suggested that the premier take "immediate steps" to have all US diplomats recalled from Georgetown.

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Common Market: Bonn and Paris appear to be moving toward an agreement to set EEC grain prices at a level which would probably stimulate French production and reduce EEC imports from the US.

According to West German officials, the agricultural ministers of the two countries agreed in Paris recently to propose that the EEC begin a study of the price question which will lay the groundwork for decisions to be taken late this fall. They apparently hope that the initial price adjustments can be made in mid-1964.

Bonn, which has been blocking any EEC action on the crucial grain price issue, is under increasing pressure from Paris to agree to some compromise, and Erhard is evidently willing to do so when he becomes chancellor later this year. German officials have noted that if the price decision is delayed until 1964, the new and presumably somewhat reduced price would come into effect in West Germany in 1965, an election year. Moreover, some Bonn officials believe that they have a better chance of getting some concessions for the German farmer this fall than in 1966 when the EEC treaty would permit Bonn to be outvoted by the other EEC members.

According to the German officials, no consideration will be given to a price level lower than mid-way between the German price--the highest in the EEC-- and the French price. They claim that the French support this level.

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*Italy: The Socialists will decide today on whether or not to abstain in the confidence vote late this week on Premier Leone's caretaker government.

Socialist abstention is almost essential if Leone is to win a vote of confidence.

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(Aldo Moro, secretary of the Christian Democratic Party, and most of that party's directorate believe Leone will obtain parliamentary endorsement. The picture is clouded, however, because right wing Christian Democrats, anxious to forestall formation of any regime resting on center-left foundations, are maneuvering to create a situation which would lead the Socialists to vote against Leone.)

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NOTES

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Japan: There is still substantial opposition in Japan to any visits to Japanese ports by nuclear-powered submarines. Leftists, including a number of Japanese scientists, are exploiting popular fear that Japanese coastal waters and marine life will be contaminated during such visits. The Japanese Government's efforts to refute the leftists' claims are handicapped by its lack of factual information on the subject.

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